



# Horizons

*Volume 4, Issue 27 - May 27, 2022*

## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE "NATURAL HELPERS"

Thirty-Three of our high school students recently attended a three-day training workshop at Camp Alvernia in Centerport. This is required training for the "Natural Helpers Program."

Natural Helpers is a peer-helping program used across the United States and in several other countries. It primarily serves middle school/junior high school, and high school students who want to strengthen their communication and helping skills, and to provide support to others with service to their schools and communities.



The Natural Helpers program is based on a simple premise: Within every school, an informal "helping network" exists. Students with problems naturally seek out other students, and occasionally teachers or other school staff whom they trust. They seek them out for advice, for assistance, or just for a sympathetic ear. The Natural Helpers program uses this existing helping network; it provides training to students and adults who are already perceived as "natural helpers." It gives them the skills they need to provide help more effectively to young people who seek them out.

Natural Helpers are a cross section of students and school adults identified through an anonymous school-wide survey. After representatives of all the subgroups in the school community are selected, they are invited to participate in the Natural Helpers program. They take part in a Retreat Training in



## ***"Natural Helpers"***

a camp-like setting; there they learn how to improve their helping skills, how to contact professional helping resources when problems exceed their limits, and how to take better care of themselves. It is constantly emphasized at the training that Natural Helpers are not professionally trained therapists or counselors.

After this Retreat Training, Natural Helpers attend Ongoing Training, either in a semester class or in a less structured format, which enhances basic skills and information covered in the Retreat Training, and which explores topics of concern to students, like stress, suicide, eating disorders, and relationships with friends and with family.

Natural Helpers report significant benefits from being involved in the program, whether their involve-



***Megan Gersbeck, Shannon Griffin  
and Joel Sidwell***

ment is helping one to one, assisting with program coordination, volunteering for community projects, or fulfilling some other role. Natural Helpers find that the skills they learn and practice in working with others are beneficial with friends, teachers, family, and co-workers. They make new friends in the program and break down some of the barriers that exist in any community. Natural Helpers also experience the special feeling that comes from helping someone else and knowing that they have made a difference.

Goals of the Natural Helpers Program; The Natural Helpers program is designed to meet three basic goals:

1. To teach Natural Helpers effective ways to help their friends
2. To teach Natural Helpers positive ways of taking good care of themselves
3. To teach Natural Helpers ways to contribute to a safe and supportive school environment

Enjoy these great photos of our students. We thank them for taking on this task to help their fellow students.





## BRETTON WOODS TEACHER AND HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS FROM THE “SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE”

On Wednesday, May 25th, two of Hauppauge’s finest received awards from the “Science Teachers Association of New York State” (STANYS). Varsha Saravanan received the award “Outstanding Senior Award in Science,” and Veronica Weeks, 5th grade teacher from Bretton Woods, received the “Elementary Science Teacher of the Year Award.”

Varsha was presented her award by her Research teacher, Mrs. Jocelyn Handley-Pendleton, who highlighted her accomplishments as a global citizen in work she has done with different organizations. Varsha also was a “Top 300 Science Scholar” with “Regeneron Science Talent Search,” and a participant in “Women in Science and Engineering” (W.I.S.E.) Ms. Handley-Pendleton said, “Varsha Saravanan has been actively involved in all things science at Hauppauge High School. She is a student who has the talent to do whatever she puts her mind to. But, more than that, she is a global citizen with a passion for social justice that she has actively fostered through both mentorship programs and research opportunities. She is deeply committed to each of her many activities and very much deserves the distinction of being



**Veronica Weeks, Award Recipient,  
with Dr. Rob Wankmuller,  
and George Gagliardi**



**Varsha Saravanan,  
Award Recipient, with  
HS Science Teacher,  
Jocelyn Handley-Pendleton**

named this year’s “STANYS Outstanding High School Senior in Science” for Hauppauge High School. Congratulations, Varsha!

Dr. Wankmuller, Director of Science and Research, said, “Veronica Weeks lives and breathes science. As a ‘NYS Master Teacher’ she works with other teachers. She is always looking to add new programs to enrich the science curriculum. She hatched bobwhite quail eggs, had her students measure the health of the Nissequogue River, and had students design an app to protect the environment and present their ideas to a panel of judges. She is already asking about growing coral reef in her classroom. As the advisor to the Robotics Club, she is always looking to get students involved with STEM.” Veronica was presented her award by Dr. Wankmuller.

Bretton Woods Principal, George Gagliardi, said the following about Veronica, “I am so proud of Mrs. Weeks on being named as the ‘2022 Elementary Science Teacher of the Year’ recipient for the ‘Suffolk Section of the Science Teachers Association of New York State.’ It’s an amazing accomplishment that she was chosen by the ‘STANYS Awards and Excellence Committee’ for her love and passion for science, for being involved in endeavors that have provided students with programs and activities that advance science in and out of the classroom, and her outstanding contributions to science education.”

Building principal George Gagliardi and her co-teacher, Tara Dungate, were her invited guests. Veronica has been teaching 5th grade at Bretton Woods for the past 26 years.

Congratulations, Veronica!

## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE RECOGNIZED FOR EXEMPLARY WORK AT THE LONG ISLAND MATH FAIR

Hauppauge students have once again brought pride to our district through their outstanding efforts in the Long Island Math Fair.

Students researched and developed extensive papers and then created a video presentation to accompany their work in the judging process.

Hauppauge School District was represented by Srihan Adabala, grade 9; Sreenand Mallisetty, grade 11; and Snehal Adabala, grade 12. Their individual projects were developed outside of school, taking on this task as independent work. Due to the advanced nature of each of their topics, time was spent learning the fundamentals of the concepts they each delved into, as well as the specific applications of each topic. Their work is impressive, each studying concepts well beyond the expectations of a student their age.

Each of Hauppauge's contestants were recognized by the judges for their exemplary work.

Srihan Adabala

Gold Award

Paper Titled: "Infinity and the Things it Can Do"

Sreenand's Mallisetty

Gold Award

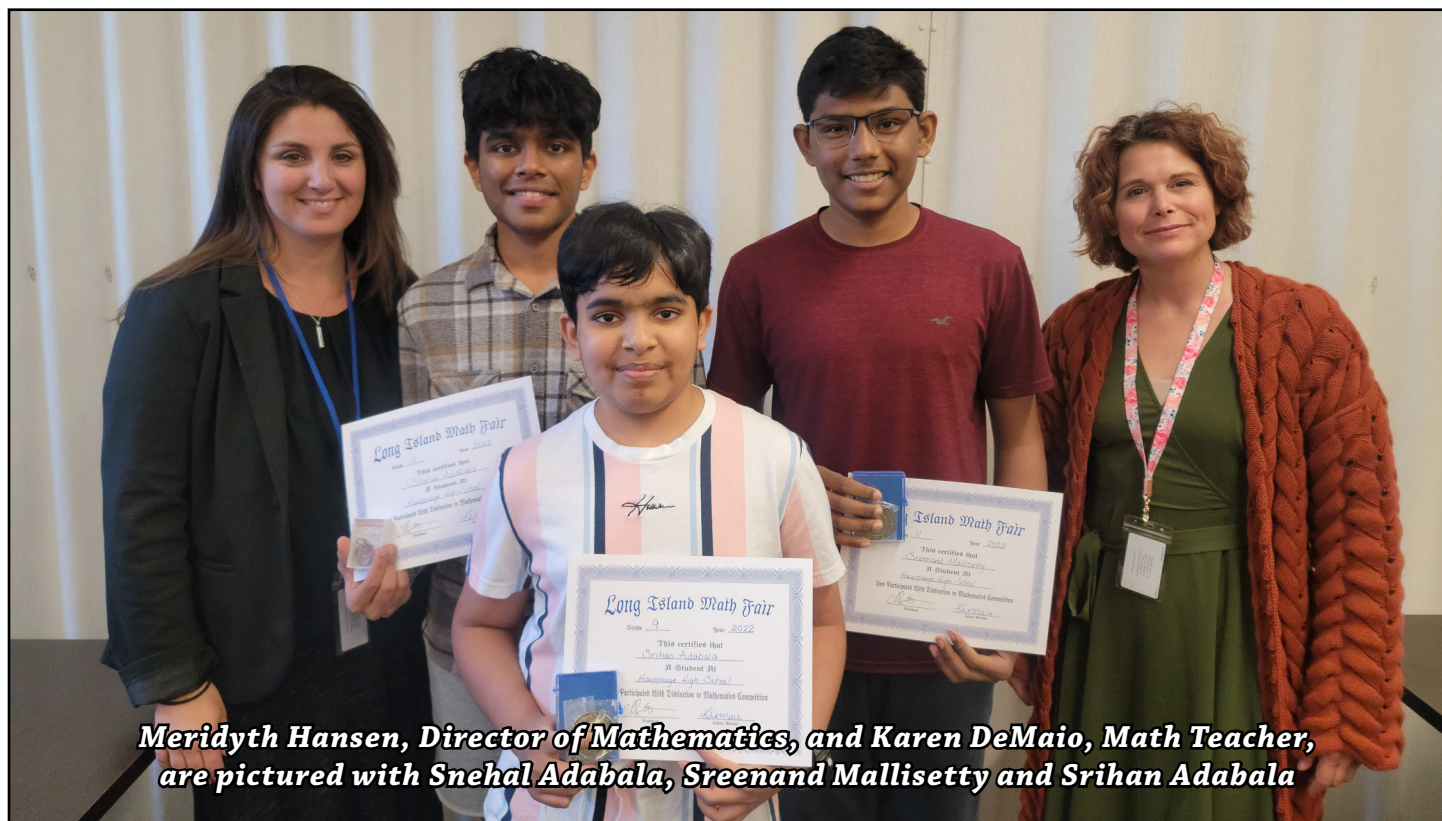
Paper Titled: "Mathematical model of Backpropagation"

Snehal Adabala

Bronze Award

Paper Titled: "Winning Strategies in Parcheesi"

Congratulations to Srihan, Sreenand, and Snehal on your outstanding effort and achievement.



***Meridyth Hansen, Director of Mathematics, and Karen DeMaio, Math Teacher, are pictured with Snehal Adabala, Sreenand Mallisetty and Srihan Adabala***



## MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE RESEARCH STUDENTS TAKE HOME HONORS

Congratulations to Middle School Science Research students Patrick Terzella, Emma Tjersland, Pranav Vijayababu and Hayley Morello. They each won "Honor Awards" in the Junior Division at the "Long Island Science Congress." Patrick is in grade 7 and Emma, Pranav, and Hayley are in grade 8.  
GO SCIENCE EAGLES!!!



***Patrick Terzella, Emma Tjersland, Pranav Vijayababu***



***Hayley Morello***

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## HIGH SCHOOL REGENERON SEMI FINALIST INVITED TO ATTEND "STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS"

High School Senior and Salutatorian, Varsha Saravanan, is also a "Regeneron Semifinalist" and she was invited to attend the "2022 State of the County Address" by Suffolk County Executive, Steve Bellone. Varsha attended and was honored with a Proclamation, along with other Long Island Regeneron Semifinalists.

Congratulations to Varsha on receiving this honor!



***Varsha Saravanan***



## FOREST BROOK'S STUDENT GOVERNMENT COMES TO THE AID OF "ANGELA'S HOUSE"

Forest Brook's Student Government sprang into action to help "Angela's House" after they were informed that their Smithtown location had a fire. Student Government would like to thank Forest Brook, Pines, Middle School and High School families for their personal hygiene donations for Angela's House.

Forest Brook's Student Government members, along with high school volunteers, sorted and packaged the donations. The Student Government members also made posters with positive messages for the children at Angela's House.

The Angela's House mission statement is "To identify families caring for children who may have a severe disability or medical condition so that we may help them obtain supportive services to improve the quality of life for the children and their family."

Here are some photos of the students working hard to make a difference in the lives of others.



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# "Angela's House"





# HIGH SCHOOL BOYS TRACK & FIELD TEAM COMPETES IN “SUFFOLK COUNTY CLASS B CHAMPIONSHIPS”

On Wednesday, May 25th, the High School Boys Track and Field Team competed in the “Suffolk County Class B Championships” (League V and VI) in Kings Park along with a total of 13 high schools. Here are the results:

Danny Derby  
Steeple Chase Class “B” County Champion

Luke Clackett  
400m Hurdles Class “B” County Champion  
110m Hurdles 4th place

Alex Bento  
Pentathalon Class “B” County Runnerup

James Abruzzo  
800m 3rd place

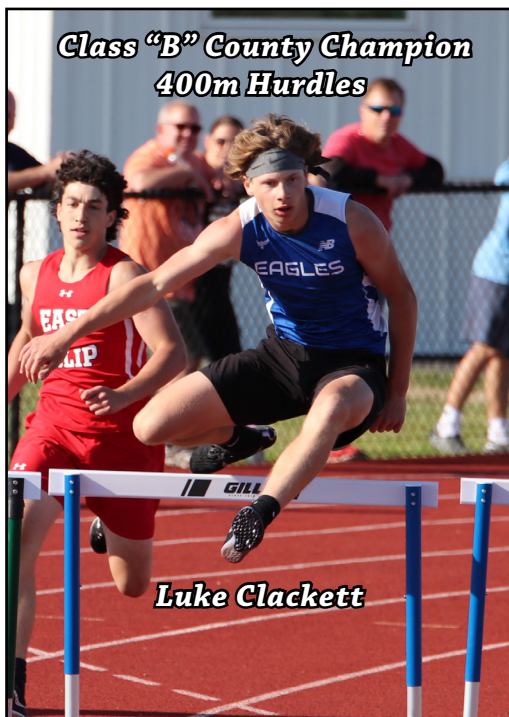
Ethan Humin  
1600m 4th place

4x400m Relay Team of Clackett, Orioles, E. Humin, Awolowo  
Class “B” County Champions with time of 3:38.97

4x800 Relay (Abruzzo, L. Humin, Misciagna, Derby) - 3rd place

Hauppauge Boys Track & Field Team finished 4th overall out of 13 teams. The team is looking forward to the State Qualifiers next week at Comsewogue!

Thank you to Coach Maida and Coach Morris for all of the training on and off the field, and their encouragement to the team. Here are some great photos from the meet, courtesy of Charles Clackett.





# ***"HS Boys Track and Field"***



***Steeple Chase Class "B" County Champion  
Danny Derby***



***Pentathlon Class "B"  
County Runner-Up  
Alex Bento***



***James Abruzzo  
800m - Third Place***



***Ethan Humin  
1600m - Fourth Place***



# ***"HS Boys Track and Field"***

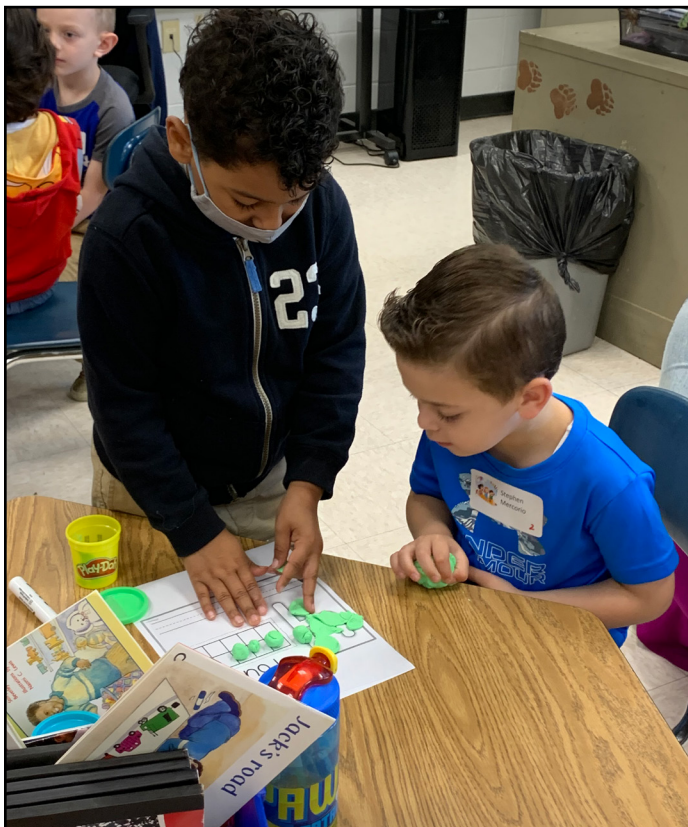
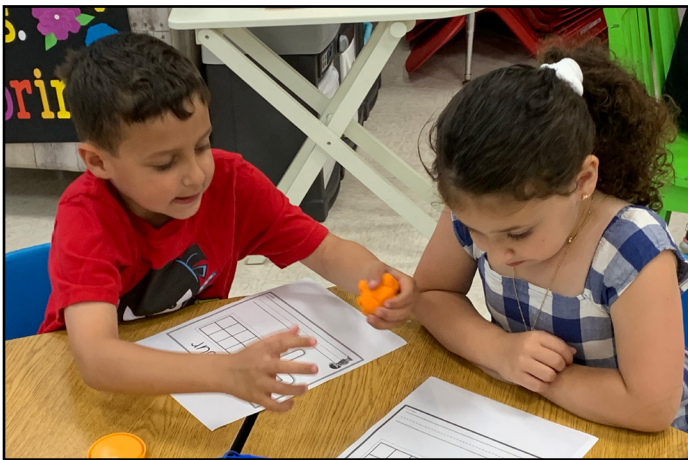




## FOREST BROOK HOLDS “KINDERGARTEN SOCIAL” TO WELCOME INCOMING STUDENTS

On Wednesday, May 25th, Forest Brook Principal, Kristen Reingold, welcomed incoming Kindergarten students with a “Kindergarten Social.” The incoming students were invited to visit a kindergarten classroom, the library and the gym. They also enjoyed a pizza lunch in the cafeteria and their first bus ride! A special thank you to our fourth and fifth grade Student Government representatives for assisting our new students.

Here are some lovely photos of the students learning about Forest Brook!



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# "Forest Brook Kindergarten Social"





## FIFTH-GRADE STUDENTS TAKE A TRIP TO "ADVENTURELAND"

On Friday, May 13th Hauppauge School District's 5th grade classes from the Pines, Forest Brook and Bretton Woods enjoyed a beautiful day at Adventureland. Parents and Teachers were there with them to enjoy all the fun. The weather was perfect and everyone enjoyed the rides and games and being with each other. We are so glad that our 5th graders were able to make some memories before leaving to head to the Middle School next year.

Here are some photos from their day of fun!



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# ***"Adventureland"***



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# ***"Adventureland"***



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# "Adventureland"





## SHADOW-A-TEACHER DAY AT THE HIGH SCHOOL

Thursday, May 26th, was "Shadow-A-Teacher" Day at the high school, and some of our students did just that! They even coordinated their outfits to really make the day special and memorable. Here are some photos of the students, and teachers!



***High School Teacher, Alison Viggiano, with students  
Jillian Cunningham and Denizhan Citroglu***



***High School Business Teacher, John Salvaggio, with students  
Kay Barrett and Karli Connelly***



## BRETTON WOODS FIFTH-GRADERS ENJOY A SPECIAL "HAWAIIAN DANCE"

On Friday, May 20th, Bretton Woods fifth-graders enjoyed a fun-filled Hawaii-themed dance after school to celebrate their time here at Bretton Woods, and their upcoming "moving-up" to the Middle School.

The dance, which was sponsored by the PTA Fifth-Grade Committee included a beautifully decorated gymnasium with flowered leis, palm trees and Hawaii backdrops. There were snacks and drinks and a terrific DeeJay for dancing. The students and their 5th grade teacher's had a ball!



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# ***"Bretton Woods Hawaiian Dance"***





# HIGH SCHOOL SPRING CONCERT

The High School held its second concert on Wednesday, May 25th. Here are some photos of the students. Thank you to Frank Bayer of Frank Bayer Photography for providing these great photos!



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# ***"High School Spring Concert"***



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# ***"High School Spring Concert"***





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